

JESUS IS THE LIFE

JOHN 14.6

This morning we continue our study of one of the most well-known sayings of Jesus recorded in **John 14.6**

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through me.”

Jesus had just finished the last supper with His disciples before His crucifixion, He has washed their feet, and He had begun to remind them that He was going to a place where they could not yet go and that they must love one another when Peter interrupted Him with a concern about the fact that Jesus was leaving and that they could not accompany Him.

To reassure them once more, Jesus encouraged them not to worry. They believe in God who is a Spirit, and they should continue to believe in Him in that same way while He is absent.

This separation would only be temporary. Jesus had a task to do and that was to create a place for them in the kingdom of God. To do that required Him to die for their sin so that they could be reconciled to the Father.

His death and resurrection would create a place for them in the kingdom. They were to be the foundation stones of the Temple of God in the kingdom – a Temple constructed of the lives and the hearts of millions who would join them in the kingdom throughout future generations.

Last week we were reminded that Jesus is truth – that there is no truth apart from Jesus. There are no alternative truths – no alternative religions nor alternative gods for men to choose from. There is only Christ.

Jesus promised to never leave His disciples, even though He would not be with them in bodily form. He would pray the Father who would send another Comforter – the Holy Spirit – who “will guide you into all truth...He will show you things to come...He will glorify me.” (**John 6.7, 13-13**)

By the Spirit's power and through His teaching we are being transformed into the image of Christ. We are being built up as stones in the building of the Temple of God. That is the meaning of discipleship, and discipleship takes place within the body of Christ – within the community of believers.

Finally, Jesus said, “I am the life.”

It does not take much study to realize that this is a subject that could occupy you for weeks and weeks. The whole lesson from the Bible is that men are dead in trespasses and sin from the day that Adam rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, and that the only hope of life is found in the death and resurrection of Christ.

The first thing we discover in this study is that Jesus is...

- The Source of Life
- The Sustainer of Life
- The Savior of Life
- The Security of Life

I. The Source of Life

A. Source of Physical Life

John 1:3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Col. 1:16 By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him.

Heb. 1:2 ...in these last days he (the Father) has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 10 You, Lord (a reference to Jesus Christ), laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

Rev. 4:11 Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

Heb. 3:4 For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.

B. Source of Spiritual Life

Eph. 2:4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved.

John 20:30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 5:21 For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live...”

1John 5:12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

II. Sustainer of Life

A. Preservation

Col. 1:17 And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (are held together).

Heb. 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

B. Provision

John 6:35 Jesus said, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.... 51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

Matt. 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

2 Cor. 9:8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

III. Savior of Life

Luke 2:11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

2 Tim. 1:9 (God) saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

1 John 4:14 We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Titus 3:4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

IV. Security of Life

1 Thess. 5:23 Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. 24 God will make this happen, for he who calls you is faithful.

John 5:17 Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

Acts 17:28 In him we live and move and have our being.

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.

John 11:26 Everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

There isn't time this morning for us to talk about the characteristics of this life that God has so freely given us through Christ Jesus.

- Satisfying Life
- Secure Life
- Sanctified Life
- Surrendered Life

I. Satisfying Life

Matt. 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

John 4:14 Whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty forever. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.

John 6:51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever.

Matt. 6:31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" 32 For the nations seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

Phil. 4:11 I am not speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

1 Peter 1:8 Though you have not seen him, you love him, and though you do not see him now, but believe in him, you greatly rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

II. Secure Life

John 3:36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. 38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. 39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.

John 6:65 And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." 66 After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" 68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Phil. 1:6 I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

III. Sanctified Life

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

1 Cor. 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Heb. 2:11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,

Heb. 10:10 ... we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

IV. Surrendered Life

John 8:28-29 I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.... For I do always those things that please him.

Rom. 6:13 Neither yield ye your members [as] instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members [as] instruments of righteousness unto God.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,

acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. 27 Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. 33 So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.

Ultimately, this idea of the surrendered life is the point Jesus was making in John 14.6

- I am the life. Life is found only in Me.
- I am your connection to the kingdom.
- I am the foundation for your faith.
- I will form you with truth in the community of believers
- I am preparing a place for you as a stone in the Temple of God.
- I will lead you to faithfulness in the commitment of your life.
- Only a life that is lost can be saved.
- Only a life surrendered can serve.

Ian Thomas:

Christ did not die simply that you might be saved from a bad conscience, or even to remove the stain of past failure, but to “clean the decks” for diving action.

The Christian life is not a method or a technique, but “the principle of an exchanged life.” Christ has given His life for ours, and we, in return, are called to give our lives for His.

Gal. 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

The surrendered life is not part of the gospel; it is the gospel.

There is nothing we can do to live the Christ life but surrender ourselves to His will. There is no effort – no works – that we can do that will ever merit the grace and the mercy of God.

There is no such thing as the gospel plus.

There is no coming to Jesus for salvation, and then surrendering to Him for service. Both of these are simultaneous decisions. Jesus is Lord or He is not. There is no middle ground.

HOW JOHN 14.6 RELATES TO TRUE LIFE

JESUS SAID, “I AM THE WAY INTO THE KINGDOM.”

He is our connection to the Father.

We are **True** Life church, because we are rooted in this doctrine – that no man comes to the Father but through Christ.

We are **founded** in Christ.

JESUS SAID, “I AM THE TRUTH OF THE KINGDOM.”

He grows us and matures us and forms us within the community of the church.

We are True **Life** Church – committed to the principles of discipleship within the context of the body of Christ.

We are **formed** in community.

JESUS SAID, “I AM THE LIFE.”

He carries out the mission of the kingdom through us.

We are True Life **Church**. Our lives are surrendered to His will and to the Great Commission to serve as His ambassadors as we live our lives before and among the people of the world.

We are **faithful** in commitment.

And nothing could be more appropriate than the **TREE** in our logo.

You remember that all of man’s problems began with a tree – at least, with man’s disobedience to God’s command to leave a particular tree untouched.

This week, many of us finished reading the book of Exodus.

Exodus 15.22 So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. 23 Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. 24 And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" 25 So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

Because of the sin of Adam, all men must drink of the bitter waters of life and suffer the penalty of death.

But praise God the story does not stop there.

1 Peter 2:24 Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

The tree reminds us of...

- Christ our **Savior** and the sacrifice He made on behalf of all sinners at Calvary.
- Growth – of **spiritual** growth and discipleship and sanctification – of being transformed into the image of Christ through His word.
- The world to whom we are obligated to **share** the message of the good news of Jesus Christ.